

The Okanagan Opportunity

Unleashing our potential

UBC's Okanagan campus is unique. Our community is connected. Collaborations happen naturally because our values are aligned. We are curious, we are devoted to the region we serve, and we attract people who want to make a difference. We push beyond traditional boundaries to find new ways of creating and sharing knowledge that responds directly to the needs of our neighbours, while ensuring that our research, creativity and innovation has regional and global impact.

Creating a culture of inclusion

Our research priorities are rooted in a respectful, inclusive and engaged approach and leverage our strengths as scientists, entrepreneurs, artists and educators. The deep and significant relationships that we share with our partners empower our research teams to make meaningful discoveries on and off our campus. We are young, strong, agile and creative, and our researchers and scholars move quickly to capitalize on emerging opportunities. We fully leverage our campus and community as learning platforms that enhance prosperity and quality of life. We have a profound attachment to our natural environment, an unwavering commitment to preserving language and culture, and a shared responsibility for the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of our region.

Improving health and wellbeing

We recognize that the health of our environments, people, communities and industries are intimately and inextricably connected. In 2012, 44 organizations met at UBC Okanagan and produced the International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges that calls for embedding health into all aspects of campus life. This grounding philosophy has been integrated into our academic mission and research agenda to transform the health and wellbeing of our society.

Cultivating new ways of working together

Our scholars work collaboratively with each other and our network of partners to generate knowledge that transcends traditional boundaries and addresses major societal issues. UBC Okanagan has an unwavering commitment to supporting and expanding interdisciplinary synergies that address tough problems and propel new approaches. We facilitate stimulating conversations with our community partners, nurture new ideas, and are excelling in connected areas that support our holistic commitment to health and wellbeing.



Defining Our Strengths

Resilient Environments

Sustainability, Ecosystem Management, Restorative & High-Value Agriculture

Our location connects us to the land, to environmental and sustainability issues, and to traditional and emerging agricultural practices in our region. Our research strengths in this area have important applications in adaptation to climate change, water and wastewater management, food systems and security, agri-tech, fruit production and protection, development of sustainable new crops, viticulture, environmental risk management with big data analytics, biodiversity conservation, eco-criticism, and environmental and agricultural sustainability.

Resources:

- Okanagan Institute for Biodiversity, Resilience, and Ecosystems Services (BRAES)
- Regional Socio-Economic Development Institute of Canada (RSEDIC)
- Canada Research Chair in Wildlife Restoration Ecology
- Industrial Research Chair in Bioeconomy Sustainability Management
- Endowed Research Chairs in Watershed Management
- Leading Edge Endowment Fund (LEEF) Innovation Chair in Water Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability

Emerging Technologies

Materials & Manufacturing, Sustainable Infrastructure, Biomedical Engineering

Our campus has developed as an interdisciplinary incubator and a catalyst — an innovation zone that supports the growth of economically important industries and the infrastructure they rely on. Our researchers have strengths in advanced materials and manufacturing, including digitization and big data, and are leaders and innovators in photonics and sensor technologies and in sustainable building practices and municipal infrastructure. Our Innovation Precinct is a one-of-a-kind collision space, where UBC researchers and scholars work with industrial and non-profit partners to solve real-world problems.

Resources:

- Materials and Manufacturing Research Institute (MMRI)
- Survive and Thrive Applied Research (STAR) Initiative
- Canada Research Chair in Material Engineering and Polymers
- Cluster of Research Excellence in Green Infrastructure
- Composites Research Network and Digital Learning Factory
- Green Construction Research and Training Centre (in collaboration with Okanagan College)
- Health Technology and Biomedical Engineering Research Group

Healthy People

Rural & Remote Health, Chronic Disease Prevention, Healthy Living & Aging

The indigenous, rural and remote communities of the Okanagan Valley engage with us to think and act regionally and inspire globally. Our research seeks to address health and wellness challenges in both urban areas and in rural and remote communities. We provide evidence-informed and community-based advancements in the management and prevention of chronic diseases, practices for healthy living and aging, and the development of new health technology solutions.

Resources:

- Institute for Healthy Living and Chronic Disease Prevention (IHLCD)
- Canada Research Chair in Cerebrovascular Physiology in Health and Disease
- Canada Research Chair in Health, Ethics and Diversity
- Cluster of Research Excellence in Community Health
- Cluster of Research Excellence in Medical Physics and Data Analytics
- Cluster of Research Excellence in Neurobiology
- Southern Medical Program and Clinical Academic Campus

Thriving Communities

Arts & Creativity, Indigeneity, Social Innovation & Community Resilience

We understand that the wellness of our community is inextricably linked to culture, creative arts and social justice. The engaged rural and remote communities that surround us make the region an ideal testbed for engaging creativity and art to advance community diversity, cultural richness and resilience. Our researchers are having profound impacts on our art and creative industries, language revitalization, digital humanities and intercultural understanding, and are leaders in indigenous, community-based research.

Resources:

- Institute for Community Engaged Research (ICER)
- Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship
- Canada Research Chair in Okanagan Indigenous Knowledge and Philosophy
- AMP Lab
- Centre for Culture and Technology
- Woodhaven Eco Culture Centre
- UBC/@/Ki-Low-Na Friendship Centre
- UBC/@/Rotary Centre for the Arts

